of the copious rains available there. But that tree is required elsewhere in the East Coast. Therefore, we have to see whether it would be worth while planting that tree."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" The acreage mentioned by the Hon. Minister is in the regeneration area of the forest itself. But, may I know what steps the Government have taken to extend the area of forests?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We have first to regenerate denuded areas like the zamin and ex-panchayat forests. That the Government are doing now."

Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Sengipatti

* 1618 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any application for grant was received by the Government from the Sengipatti Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Tanjore district for the years 1953–54 and 1954–55; and

(*b*) if so, the amount sanctioned as against the amount applied for?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. No grant was sanctioned for 1953–54 as the accounts of the Sanatorium showed a surplus. The question of sanctioning a grant for 1954–55 will arise only if the accounts for that year show a net deficit."

Constitution of new panchayats

* 1619 *Q.*—SRI G. VAGHEESAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether steps are being taken to form some panchayats in the Community Projects Areas;

(*b*) how many panchayats have so far been formed in villages having a population of 1,000 and above; and

(*c*) how many are yet to be formed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken to form more panchayats in the Community Projects areas.

" (*b*) Five hundred and seventy-five new panchayats have been constituted up to 31st January 1955 in the State (including Community Projects areas).

" (*c*) Panchayats are yet to be formed in 4,379 more villages in the State."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that more than 500 panchayats have been formed in the State of Madras, may I know whether he is aware of the fact